

**W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.**1500 NORTH FOURTH STREET • P.O. BOX 2400 • FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA 86003 • PHONE 928/526-3030
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ADDRESSEE: Commissioner For Patents
(703) 872-9306SENDER: David JohnsPHONE NUMBER: 928 / 864-4800
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Operator: Melanee Williams Date:

COMMENTS:We enclose the attached papers for filing in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in
connection with Patent Application Serial No. 10/026,108.*****
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JAN 21 2005

Attorney Docket No. MP/157

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Palacios et al.
Appl. No. : 10/026,108
Filed : 12/20/2001
Title : Apparatus and Method For Applying
Reinforcement Material To A
Surgical Stapler
Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner : Woo, Julian W

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark
Office on January 21, 2005.


Melanee Williams

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in
connection with the above-identified Patent Application.

Response under 37 CFR 1.111 (6 pages)

Respectfully submitted,


David J. Johns

Reg. No. 81,527
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
551 Paper Mill Road, P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(928) 864-4800

Date: 1/21/05

Attorney Docket No. MP/157

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Palacios et al.
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004 for the above-referenced application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

Applicants hereby request a one-month Extension of Time. The Examiner is requested and authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 07-1729 for the appropriate fee.